

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3883

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

S E C R E T BONN 20510

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, GE

SUBJECT: FRG PAPER ON BERLIN STOCKPILE

REFS: (A) USBER 2478; (B) BONN 17900

BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO AGREE WITH
MISSION BERLIN'S VIEWS ON STOCKPILE AS IN REF A AND
REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S POSITION FOR TRIPARTITE DISCUS-
SIONS IN ADVANCE OF DECEMBER 14 BONN GROUP MEETING.
END SUMMARY.

1. BONN GROUP CONSIDERATION OF THE FRG "NEW CONCEPT"
FOR THE BERLIN STOCKPILE, WITH PARTICIPATION OF
EXPERTS FROM FINANCE MINISTRY, HAS NOW BEEN POSTPONED
TO DECEMBER 14, BY WHICH TIME ALL THREE ALLIED REPS
ARE HOPING TO HAVE RECEIVED GUIDANCE FROM CAPITALS.
EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO AGREE WITH US MISSION BERLIN'S
VIEW EXPRESSED IN REF A THAT WE SHOULD ACCEDE TO THE
FRG "NEW CONCEPT" WITH THE PROVISO THAT THE 12-MONTH
SOLID FUEL STOCKPILE BE MAINTAINED.

2. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THE FRG LOSE
INTEREST IN PUSHING ITS NEW CONCEPT AFTER LAST YEAR'S
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, WE ACCEPT THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE
LATEST GERMAN PAPER, REF B, AN ALLIED POSITION MUST BE
TAKEN. SUCH A POSITION MUST OF COURSE BE CONGRUENT
WITH ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FIELD NOTED IN PARA

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3, REF A, WHILE RECOGNIZING THE FACT THAT THE MAINTENANCE OF THE STOCKPILE IS ESSENTIALLY AN FRG RESPONSIBILITY. THE NEW FRG MEMO INDICATES THAT FULL CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE VIEWS AND MINGIVINGS EXPRESSED BY THE ALLIES A YEAR AGO. THIS HAVING BEEN DONE, WE BELIEVE THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, WE SHOULD ACCEDE TO THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION.

3. ON THE PRACTICAL ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE MODIFICATION, WE DEFER TO MISSION BERLIN'S EVALUATION. AS FOR THE EFFECTS IN A POSSIBLE FUTURE BERLIN CRISIS, THERE ARE TOO MANY VARIABLES TO PERMIT MEANINGFUL SPECULATION.

4. IT IS IN OUR VIEW NOT REALISTIC TO ANTICIPATE THAT A LIMITED REDUCTION OF ELEMENTS OF THE BERLIN STOCKPILE WOULD IN ITSELF SET OFF A SOVIET GAMBIT IN THE AREA. THE ADEQUACY OF A STOCKPILE OF ANY SIZE FOR A FUTURE BERLIN CRISIS DEPENDS INEXORABLY ON THE NATURE OF THE CRISIS. IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE A REPEAT OF THE 1948-49 SITUATION WITH BLOCKADE ONLY OF GROUND ACCESS. WHILE OUR CONTINGENCY PLANNING IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION OF RESUPPLY BY AIR, AS IN 1948-49, IT SEEMS MORE REALISTIC TO RULE OUT THAT POSSIBILITY AND ASSUME THAT BERLIN MUST SURVIVE ON THE STOCKPILE UNTIL THE CRISIS IS RESOLVED. THAT WOULD ARGUE FOR A MAXIMUM STOCKPILE -- BUT AS A PRACTICAL MATTER 12-MONTH STOCKS SEEM UNATTAINABLE IN MANY AREAS.

5. ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE NEW CONCEPT, WE WOULD ASSUME THAT ANY REDUCTIONS MIGHT BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE IN BERLIN. HOWEVER, THE PLAN CAN BE CONSIDERED AND BE PRESENTED IF NECESSARY AS A "RATIONALIZATION" RATHER THAN A "REDUCTION" OF THE STOCKPILE. THAT ASPECT OF THE CHANGE MAKES IT DOUBLY IMPORTANT THAT THE FRG SHOULD FULFILL WHAT IS IN A SENSE ITS PART OF THE BARGAIN, I.E., BRINGING DEFICIENT LEVELS UP TO THE SIX-MONTH MINIMUM. PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESENTATION WOULD ALSO BE AIDED BY MISSION'S PROPOSAL THAT SOLID FUEL STOCKPILE BE

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MAINTAINED AT TWELVE-MONTH LEVEL.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS IN TIME FOR TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS IN ADVANCE OF DECEMBER 14 BONN GROUP MEETING ON THE QUESTION.
STOESSEL

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